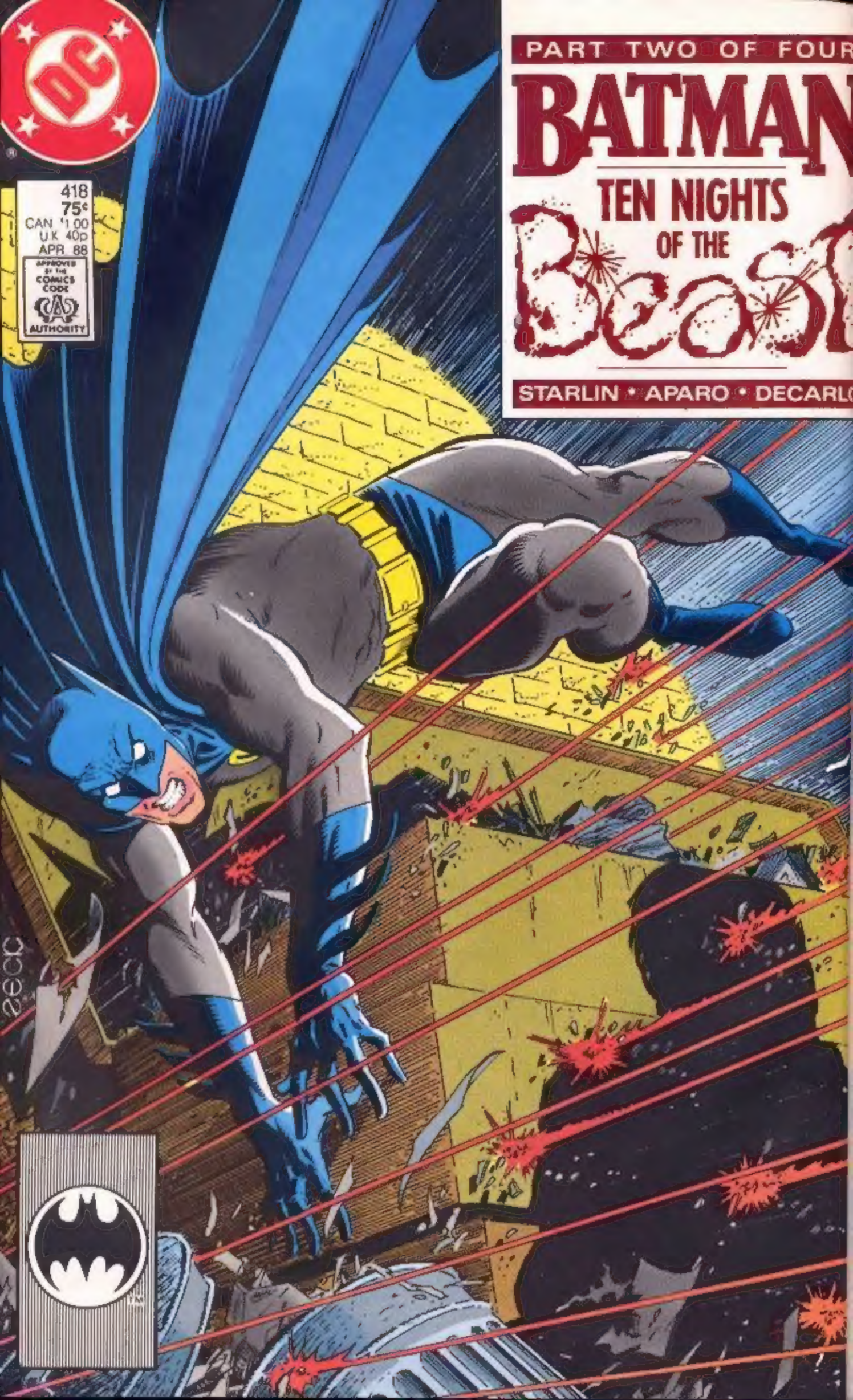
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PART TWO OF FOUR
BATMAN
TEN NIGHTS OF THE BEAST
STARLIN • APARO • DECARLO
aeap

TEN NIGHTS of the BEAST

PART II

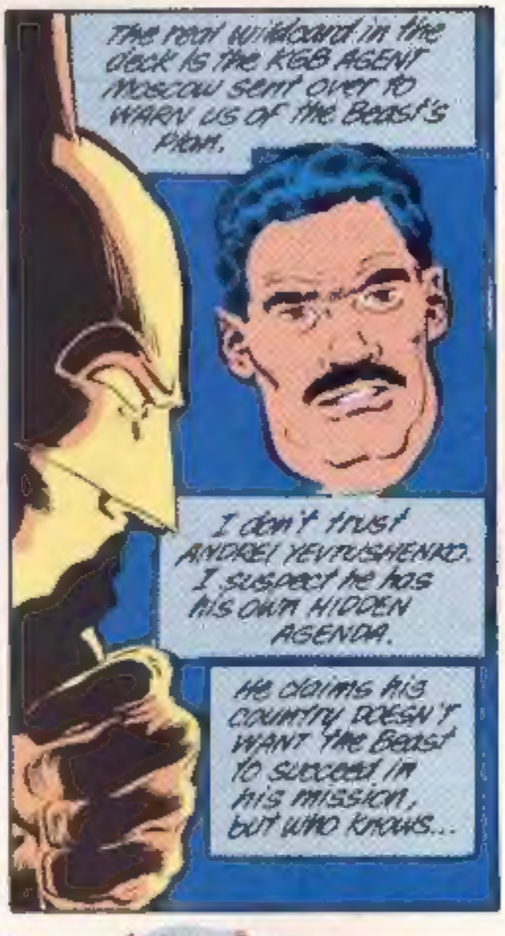
DAY 4, 5:23 A.M. SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY.
There's a KILLER loose in my city. They call him the KGBeast. He's already murdered 12 PEOPLE.
The purpose of these assassinations is to disrupt this country's research on the Strategic Defense Initiative, the STAR WARS PROGRAM.
Damn the POLITICIANS. Why can't they play their GAMES without killing people?

Jim Starlin WRITER · Jim Aparo PENCILLER · Mike DeCarlo INKER · John Costanza letterer · Adrienne Roy colorist · Denny O'Neil EDITOR

nom deplume scan

FOUR of the people the Beast has killed are part of a hit list of TEN NAMES.
IF all these individuals are eliminated, the SDI program could well be destroyed.
My job is to protect the 6 people left on that list.

I've got plenty of help in this task, maybe more than I need.
COMMISSIONER GORDON and his police force will be an asset.
C.I.A. AGENT BUNDY looks like he knows what he's doing also.
Unfortunately, FBI AGENT PARKER and his crew smell of nothing but trouble.


The real wildcard in the deck is the KGB AGENT Moscow sent over to WARN us of the Beast's plan.
I don't trust ANDREI YEVTUSHENKO. I suspect he has his own HIDDEN AGENDA.
He claims his country DOESN'T WANT the Beast to succeed in his mission, but who knows...

FIVE of the Beast's SIX remaining targets are in PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.
But will that be enough? The Beast is supposed to be a SUPER-ASSASSIN. Can conventional measures stop him?

I'll feel better when they find SILVIA BURROWS, the missing math expert.
She's out there somewhere, UNAWARE that she's being STALKED...
...stalked by the KGBeast.

DAY 4, 5:37 AM. RIDGEDALE, A SUBURB OF GOTHAM CITY.
JOHN KAHILL AND HIS OVERNIGHT GUEST, SILVIA BURROWS, HAVEN'T RISEN TO GREET THE DAY YET.
THEY DON'T KNOW THAT THEY HAVE AN UNINVITED VISITOR.
HE COMES TO MAKE A DELIVERY.
HAM
ORANGE JU
MILK
ORANGE JU
ORANGE JU
E JUIC
ORANGE JU
3

DAY 4, 8:55 A.M.
BATMAN, WE FOUND SILVIA BURROWS.
SHE'S DEAD. SO'S HER BOYFRIEND.
IT WAS A CANISTER OF POISON GAS, DISGUISED AS A BOTTLE OF ORANGE JUICE.
THEY NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT THEM.
THANK YOU FOR INFORMING ME, COMMISSIONER.
I'LL SEE YOU AT LUNCH.
THAT PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR STILL GOING TO THE FUND-RAISING LUNCHEON?
COULDN'T TALK HIM OUT OF IT. AT LEAST THE LOCATION'S BEEN CHANGED.
FBI AGENT PARKER SEEMS TO THINK THAT PRECAUTION WILL GUARANTEE THE ADVISOR'S SAFETY.
BUT I THINK WE'LL ATTEND THAT LUNCHEON ALSO... JUST IN CASE.
4

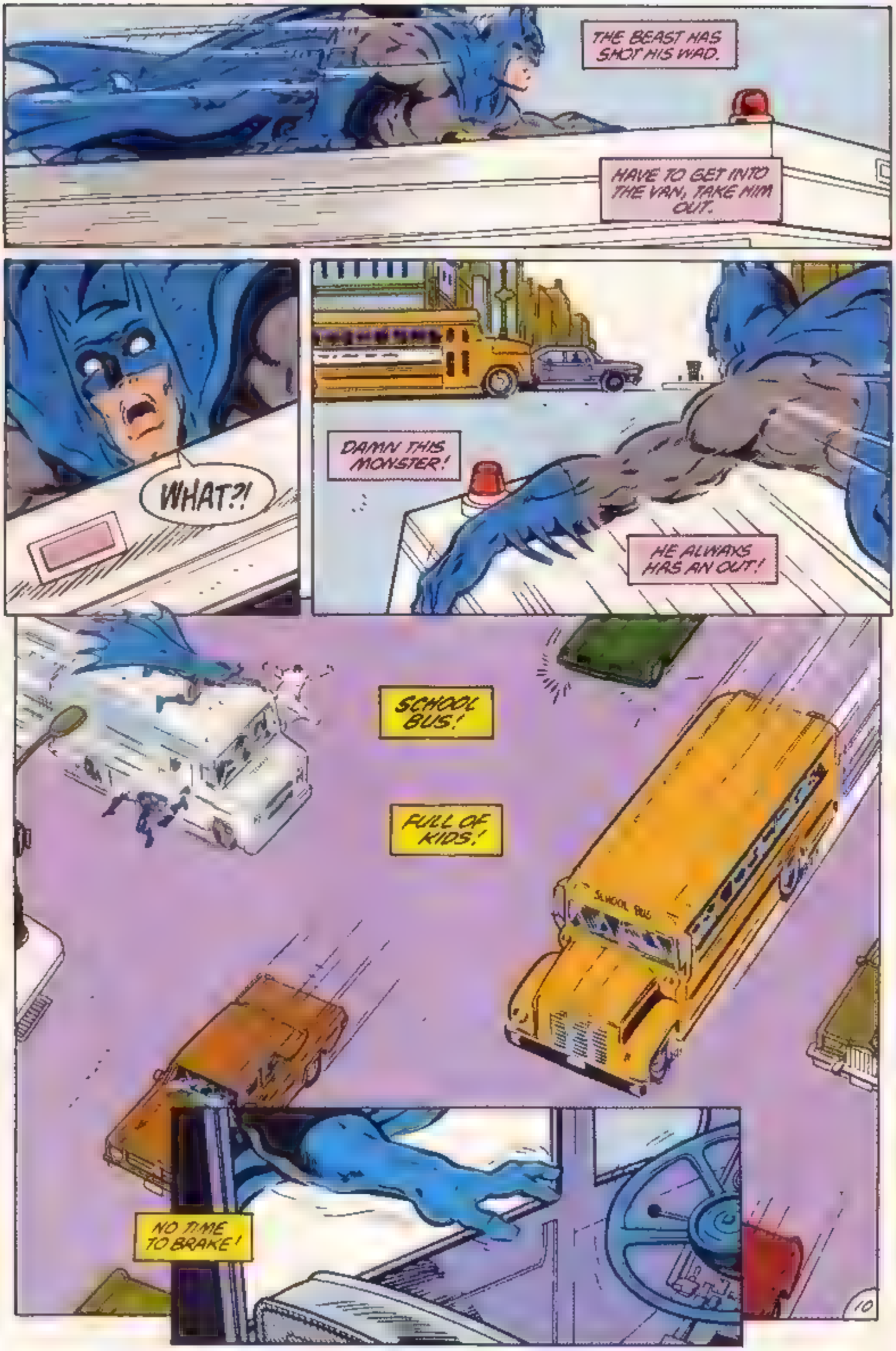
DAY 4, 12:36 AM. THE GOTHAM EXCELSIOR HOTEL.
GOTHAM EXCELSIOR HOTEL
THE REPUBLICANS WANT TO BUILD UP A HEFTY WAR-CHEST FOR THE ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR.
THIS IS ONLY ONE OF MANY SUCH FUND-RAISING DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS PLANNED FOR THIS MONTH.
THE GUESTS INCLUDE SOME OF GOTHAM'S WEALTHIEST CITIZENS.
THE PARTY HAS SENT SOME OF ITS BIGGEST GUNS TO HELP RAISE MUCH-NEEDED CAPITAL FOR TV COMMERCIALS.
THE MAIN SPEAKER FOR THIS AFTERNOON IS BEN WILDER, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ON THE STAR WARS PROGRAM.
NOT EVERYBODY'S HERE TO LISTEN TO THE SPEECHES...
SOME HAVE COME TO PROTECT THE SPEAKERS..
BUT DEATH HAS MANY FORMS... IS SOMETIMES HARD TO RECOGNIZE, EVEN FOR THE "EVER VIGILANT."
5

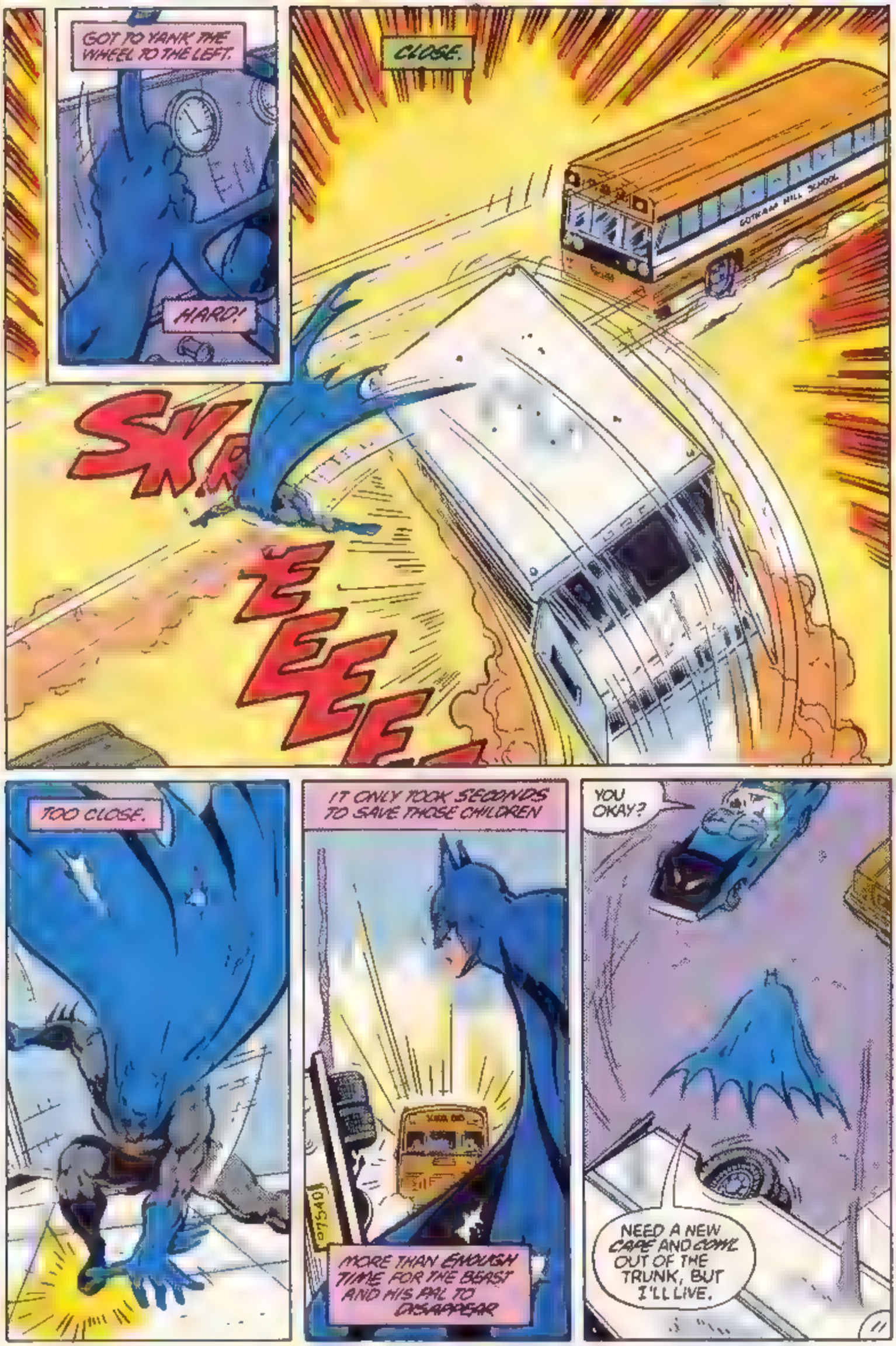
ITS ARRIVAL IS USUALLY UNEXPECTED...
WELCOME TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF CORROLITE LUNCHEON. AS YOU ALL KNOW...
...DREADFULLY UNEXPECTED.
...WE'VE BEEN HAVING THESE LITTLE... UH?
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR WILDER...
...NEVER GETS A CHANCE TO MAKE HIS SPEECH.
LEONARD, CALL FOR AMBULANCES! LOTS OF AMBULANCES!
EVERYONE ELSE TO THE KITCHEN!
6

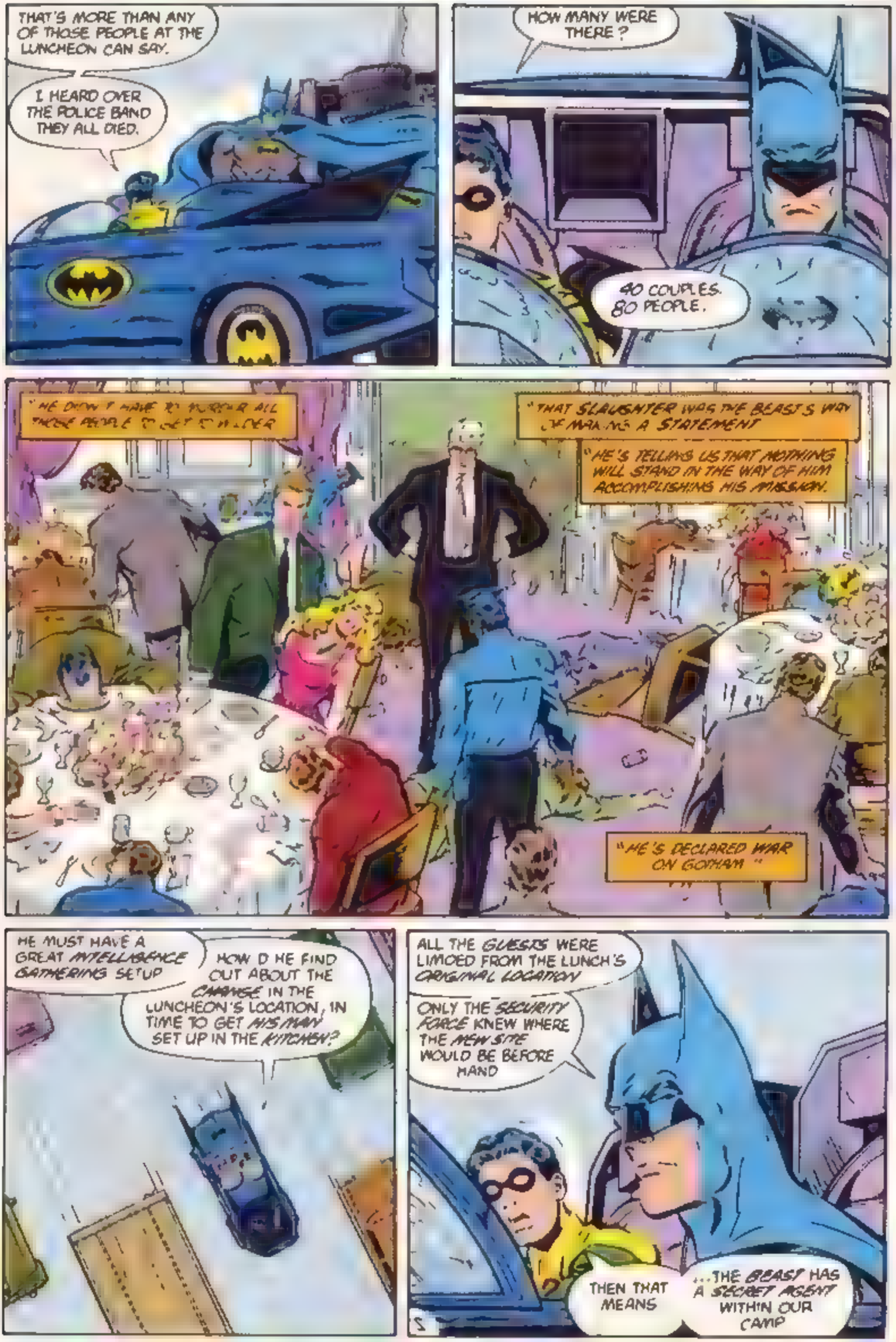
WHO PREPARED THE SOUP?!
MONSIEUR LAGRAND DID!
WHO?!
HE IS THE CHEF FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT!
HE SUPERVISED THE PREPARATION OF THE ENTIRE MEAL.
I DIDN'T HEAR OF ANYONE BEING SENT OVER...
THE BEAST!
EVERYONE'S DYING OUT THERE!
THE MADMAN'S POISONED THE ENTIRE BANQUET JUST TO GET TO WILDER!
WHERE IS THIS MONSIEUR LAGRAND?
THE ALLEY BEHIND THE GOTHAM EXCELSIOR HOTEL.
NABIN SALARI, THE BEAST'S ASSISTANT.
7

END OF THE LINE, SALARI!
WHERE'S YOUR BOSS?
RIGHT BEHIND ME!
RAT-A-TAT-TAT-A-TAT-TAT
THAT THOMPSON THE BEAST IS USING ONLY HAS A FIFTY ROUND CLIP.
AT THE RATE HE'S PUMPING THEM OUT AT ME, HE'LL HAVE TO CHANGE CLIPS IN THREE MORE SECONDS.
1 SECOND.

THAT'LL GIVE SALARI A CHANCE TO REACH THE VAN...
RATTATAT
2 SECONDS.
...AND START THE ENGINE.
3 SECONDS.
TIME FOR THE BEAST TO RELOAD.
TIME FOR ME TO MOVE.
A FRONTAL ASSAULT WOULD BE SUICIDE.
KRUK
COME AT THEM AT AN ODD ANGLE...
DON'T GIVE THE BEAST TIME TO AIM.
MADE IT!
BUT THE BEAST IS NOT YET DECLAWED.
HE KNOWS WHERE HIS TARGET IS.
OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS.
SKREEEEEEE
9


THE BEAST HAS SHOT HIS WAD.
HAVE TO GET INTO THE VAN, TAKE HIM OUT.
WHAT?!
DAMN THIS MONSTER!
HE ALWAYS HAS AN OUT!
SCHOOL BUS!
FULL OF KIDS!
SCHOOL BUS
NO TIME TO BRAKE!
10


GOT TO YANK THE WHEEL TO THE LEFT.
HARD!
CLOSE.
GOTHAM HILL SCHOOL
SKR
EEEE
TOO CLOSE.
IT ONLY TOOK SECONDS TO SAVE THOSE CHILDREN
MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR THE BEAST AND HIS PAL TO DISAPPEAR
YOU OKAY?
NEED A NEW CAPE AND COWL OUT OF THE TRUNK, BUT I'LL LIVE.


THAT'S MORE THAN ANY OF THOSE PEOPLE AT THE LUNCHEON CAN SAY.
I HEARD OVER THE POLICE BAND THEY ALL DIED.
HOW MANY WERE THERE?
40 COUPLES. 80 PEOPLE.
"HE DIDN'T HAVE TO MURDER ALL THOSE PEOPLE TO GET TO HIM."
"THAT SLAUGHTER WAS THE BEAST'S WAY OF MAKING A STATEMENT."
"HE'S TELLING US THAT NOTHING WILL STAND IN THE WAY OF HIM ACCOMPLISHING HIS MISSION."
"HE'S DECLARED WAR ON GOTHAM."
HE MUST HAVE A GREAT INTELLIGENCE GATHERING SETUP
HOW'D HE FIND OUT ABOUT THE CHANGE IN THE LUNCHEON'S LOCATION, IN TIME TO GET HIS MAN SET UP IN THE KITCHEN?
ALL THE GUESTS WERE LIMOED FROM THE LUNCH'S ORIGINAL LOCATION
ONLY THE SECURITY FORCE KNEW WHERE THE NEW SITE WOULD BE BEFORE HAND
THEN THAT MEANS
...THE BEAST HAS A SECRET AGENT WITHIN OUR CAMP

DAY 4, 2:27 P.M
TWO BLOCKS FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT ANY OF THE REDS LET IN ON WHAT WE'RE UP TO
KEEP THEM ALL IN THE DARK, ESPECIALLY THAT RUSSIAN, YEVTUSHENKO.
MY MEN WILL TAKE CARE OF THE SENATOR AND THE CONGRESSMAN.
IT'S STILL GOING TO BE RISKY BUSINESS, THOUGH
I'LL ARRANGE FOR THE ROOMS AT THE BLAKLEY HOTEL
NOW THE BEAST WILL BE FORCED TO PLAY THE GAME OUR WAY
WE'VE STILL GOT TIME TO DO A LITTLE RESEARCH
DAY 4, 6:55 P.M
GOTHAM CITY'S CENTRAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU WON'T TELL ME!?
GOTHAM POLICE
FIRST YOU CLEVERLY MANEUVER ALL MY AGENTS OUT OF THE WAY, THEN YOU STASH SENATOR DAYLE AND CONGRESSMAN BURNS SOMEWHERE AND REFUSE TO TELL ME WHERE!
THAT'S KIDNAPPING!
NO, THAT'S PROTECTIVE CUSTODY
I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW
MAYBE, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A NEED TO KNOW
13

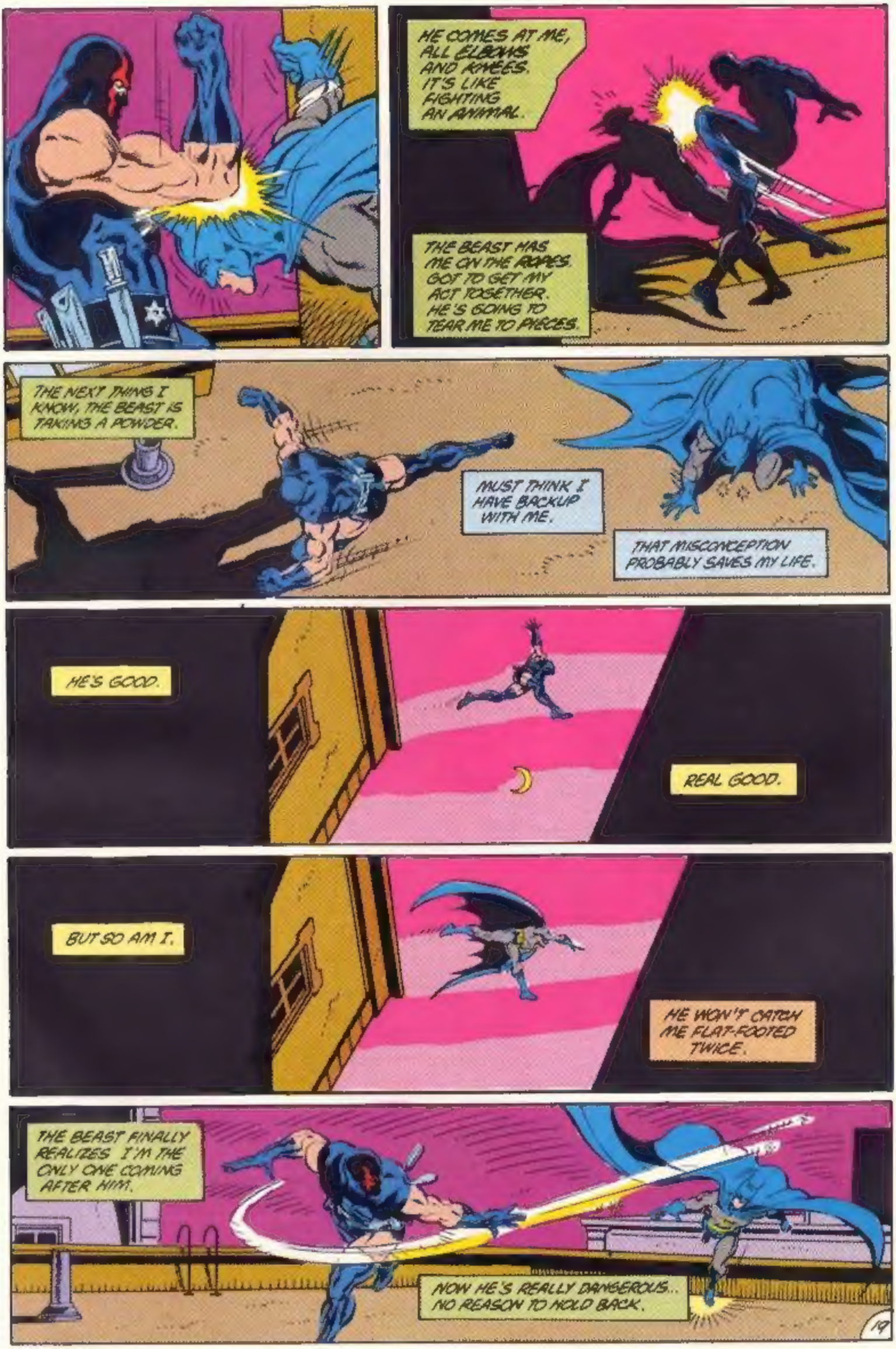
THINK YOU'RE PRETTY FUNNY, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE GOING TO END UP WITH YOUR TAIL IN A GRINDER ON THIS ONE, GORDON!
WHERE'S BUNDY?
IN YOUR OFFICE WITH THE RUSSIAN
I THINK THEY'RE HAVING A DEBATE
BUT YOU MUST ADMIT THE ASTRONOMICAL COST OF THE STAR WARS PROGRAM SHOULD DISCOURAGE ITS DEVELOPMENT!
SUCH A NEW ARMS RACE WILL BANKRUPT BOTH OUR COUNTRIES!
THERE ARE BETTER USES FOR THIS MONEY!
BUT IT MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE NUCLEAR BUILD-UP! THERE ARE POWERFUL VESTED INTERESTS, IN BOTH OUR SOCIETIES, THAT WANT THE PROLIFERATION OF ATOMIC WARHEADS TO CONTINUE!
MAKING NUCLEAR WEAPONS OBSOLETE MAY BE OUR ONLY OUT!
NONE OF THE EXPERTS WILL GUARANTEE THAT SDI WILL ACCOMPLISH THAT!
STAR WARS MAY BE A FALSE HOPE, THAT COULD ACTUALLY TRIGGER ATOMIC ANNIHILATION!
[redacted] IS THE ONLY ANSWER!
IF YOU WANT DISARMAMENT, YOU HAVE TO ALLOW ON SITE VERIFICATION!
AND ALLOW YOUR CIA AGENTS FREE REIGN ALL OVER OUR COUNTRY? NEVER!
YEAH, YEAH, IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY.
YES.. THE SAME OLD STORY.
DAY 4, 7:15 PM
THEY'VE GOT THE SENATOR STASHED AT THE AGENCY MOTEL, ROOM 714
14

I OVERHEARD TWO COPS TALKING ABOUT IT
STILL DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THEY'VE STUCK CONGRESSMAN BURNS.
THIS INFORMATION WILL SUFFICE FOR NOW
TONIGHT WE DEAL WITH THE SENATOR, TOMORROW THE CONGRESSMAN
DAY 4, 8:10 PM
HELLO, ARTY
STILL RUNNING GUNS?
I'M INTERESTED IN A CUSTOMER YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD TONIGHT.
THIS BUYER WOULD HAVE HAD A RUSSIAN ACCENT, BENNY
HE'D BE SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING PRETTY SOPHISTICATED, RALPHY.
IF YOU'VE MET WITH HIM, RAOUL, YOU BETTER TELL ME
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE ME ANGRY NOW, WOULD YOU, LIN?
15

I , I SOLD HIM A BAZOOKA. ONE ROCKET
PLEASE DON'T DROP ME
NOW WE KNOW WHAT THE BEAST WILL BE COMING AT US WITH.
A LITTLE RESEARCH DOES MAKE THE JOB A LOT EAS ER, DOESN'T IT?
DAY 4, 9:54 P.M. THE REGENCY HOTEL
ROOM 714
SENATOR DAYLE'S DISTINCTIVE SILVER MANE MAKES HIM EASY TO SPOT.
ONLY ONE PROBLEM, IT'S ALL TOO EASY.
THE WHOLE SETUP IS WRONG. ONLY ONE MAN IN THE ROOM WITH THE TARGET. THE CURTAINS LEFT OPEN.
IT'S AS IF THEY'RE INVITING HIM TO KILL SENATOR DAYLE. THE BEAST SUSPECTS A TRAP.
BUT HE'S COME TOO FAR TO BACK OFF NOW
IF HE PASSES UP THIS OPPORTUNITY, HE MAY NOT GET ANOTHER CRACK AT THE MAN
BESIDES, EVEN IF IT IS A TRAP, HE HAS SEVERAL ESCAPE ROUTES MAPPED OUT FOR JUST SUCH AN EVENTUALITY
16

NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED
"WHAT'S THAT EXPRESSION THE AMERICANS HAVE?
KRRR
THOOOOOM
"BULLS EYE!"
CONGRATULATIONS
GOOD SHOOTING
YOU'VE JUST MANAGED TO MURDER A GENUINE UNITED STATES SENATORIAL.

"...DUMMY."
BIIRR!!
HE MOVES, QUICK AS A SNAKE
SPITTING LEAD VENOM AT ME.
OR RATHER AT WHERE I WAS
HOPE A THROWING-DART WILL MAKE SHORT WORK OF THE BEAST
THERE'S ENOUGH DOPE ON THAT DART TO PUT OUT ANY TWO NORMAL MEN HIS SIZE
TIIC
KRAK
UNFORTUNATELY THE KEBLAST IS NO ORDINARY MAN


HE COMES AT ME, ALL ELBOWS AND KNEES. IT'S LIKE FIGHTING AN ANIMAL.
THE BEAST HAS ME ON THE ROPES. GOT TO GET MY ACT TOGETHER. HE'S GOING TO TEAR ME TO PIECES.
THE NEXT THING I KNOW, THE BEAST IS TAKING A POWDER.
MUST THINK I HAVE BACKUP WITH ME.
THAT MISCONCEPTION PROBABLY SAVES MY LIFE.
HE'S GOOD.
REAL GOOD.
BUT SO AM I.
HE WON'T CATCH ME FLAT-FOOTED TWICE.
THE BEAST FINALLY REALIZES I'M THE ONLY ONE COMING AFTER HIM.
NOW HE'S REALLY DANGEROUS... NO REASON TO HOLD BACK.
19

THE KILLER'S DONE HIS HOMEWORK. HE KNOWS THE TERRITORY...
...KNOWS THERE'S A FLAGPOLE HERE, TO BREAK HIS FALL...
...AND A NEARBY ROOF TO LAND ON.
AS SOON AS WE TOUCH DOWN, HE'LL STRIKE.
HE NEVER MISSES A CHANCE.
BUT THEN NEITHER DO I.

NO WAY TO DODGE THE BEAST'S THIRD DAGGER.
WHERE DOES HE THINK HE'S GOING NOW?
HE DOESN'T THINK HE CAN REACH THAT TELEPHONE WIRE DOWN ON THIRD AVENUE, DOES HE?
GUESS SO.
HAVE TO STOP IT THE HARD WAY.
WELL, IF HE CAN DO IT, SO CAN I.
HE MAKES IT.
21

I MISS.
NO NEED TO PANIC.
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
I SURVIVE, BUT THE BEAST ESCAPES...
...LEAVING A STARTLING REALI-ZATION IN THE WAKE OF HIS DEPARTURE.
I'VE FINALLY RUN INTO SOMEONE WHO'S BETTER AT THIS GAME THAN I AM.
22
CONTINUED...